

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An injection-moulded plastic flange for mounting accessories on a thermoplastic hollow body, capable of closing off, in a sealed manner, an opening cut into the wall of this hollow body, the said flange having bearing a thread on its periphery obtained directly by injection moulding, and said flange and said thread being integral with each other to comprise consist of a one piece unit.
2. (Previously presented) The flange according to claim 1, in combination with a ring for holding its assembly with the hollow body in place.
3. (Original) The flange according to claim 1, wherein the plastic used to make it has a low permeability to gases and liquids.
4. (Previously presented) The flange according to claim 1, wherein the plastic is selected from the group consisting of polyacetals, polyamides, polyesters and polyvinylidene halides.
5. (Previously presented) The combination according to claim 15, wherein the hollow body is a fuel tank for a motor vehicle.
6. (Previously presented) The combination according to claim 5, which has mounted on it at least one accessory of a fuel tank, selected from the group consisting of a pump module, a volume gauge, a pipette connected to a line for the inflow or outflow of liquid and/or gaseous fuel, a connector and an electrical cable.
7. (Previously presented) The combination according to claim 5, wherein the fuel tank consists of at least two shells made of a multilayer thermoplastic, the shells being welded to one another.
8. (Previously presented) The combination according to claim 5 which has at least one accessory mounted on the flange.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Withdrawn) A process for manufacturing a fuel tank that includes a flange according to

Claim 7 for mounting at least one accessory, wherein the following steps are carried out, in the order indicated:

- a) a seal is placed in a groove cut out around the periphery of the flange and facing the wall of a shell, around the perimeter of an opening cut into the latter;
- b) the flange is positioned over the opening, so that the seal bears all around the perimeter of the opening and so that the opening passes through the threaded part of the flange;
- c) a ring is screwed onto the threaded part until abutment, against the outer wall of the shell, of the surface of the flange hugging the groove; and
- d) the shell bearing the flange is welded to at least one other shell so as to obtain a tank.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The combination according to claim 5, wherein a compressible seal is mounted between the flange and the hollow body wall near the opening, a ring mounted to the hollow body wall in threaded engagement with the flange thread, and impermeability to gases and liquids being provided by tightly screwing the ring onto the thread of the flange to hold the seal in a compressed state.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The combination according to claim 15, wherein a compressible seal is mounted between the flange and the hollow body wall near the opening, a ring mounted to the hollow body wall in threaded engagement with the flange thread, and impermeability to gases and liquids being provided by tightly screwing the ring onto the thread of the flange to hold the seal in a compressed state.

15. (Currently amended) A combination hollow body and flange comprising a thermoplastic hollow body having a wall, an opening cut into said wall, an injection-moulded plastic flange for mounting accessories on said hollow body, said flange closing off said opening in a sealed manner, said flange ~~having~~ bearing a thread on its periphery obtained directly by injection

moulding, and said flange and said thread being integral with each other to ~~comprise~~ consist of a one piece unit.